

22. The process of claim 21 wherein contacting the formed snacks with superheated steam is conducted by moving said formed snacks on a metal reticular conveyor belt while opposed jets of said steam impinge on said formed snacks from above and below said belt.
23. The process of claim 21 wherein the press-forming of the pasty mixture is conducted by extrusion thereof as a rope or ribbon that is cut into said snacks.
24. The process of claim 21 wherein the snacks after being contacted with superheated steam are frozen by spraying with liquid carbon dioxide or nitrogen.
25. The grain-rich snacks prepared by the process of claim 21.
26. The grain-rich snacks prepared by the process of claim 24.

REMARKS

Examiner Pratt's advice regarding claims 12-20, which indicates the presence of patentable matter, is noted with appreciation.

Claims 8-11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Barnes et al in view of Miller et al. The title and abstract of the Barnes patent clearly state that the invention involves acidified pastas which are certainly not applicant's snacks. Applicant does not form pasta but he may optionally use cooked pasta (claims 2,5,10,13,15,19) to produce his snacks as alternates to pretzels, nuggets, crackers and chips (page 1,